

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251283

FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: AF/S CONVERSATION WITH HENRY AND TENDEKAI MUZOREWA

1. MESSRS. HENRY AND TENDEKAI MUZOREWA, BROTHER AND SON TO THE BISHOP, RESPECTIVELY, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. GLENN BILLINGTON CALLED ON AF/S ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 18 TO EXPRESS SOME RESERVATIONS CONCERNING WHAT THEY SAW AS THE PRESENT COURSE OF U.S.-U.K. INITIATIVE.

2. MUZOREWA INSISTED THAT UNLESS THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE PERCEIVED BY THE RHODESIAN POPULACE AS ENTIRELY UNBIASED A CIVIL WAR IS ALMOST CERTAIN. IN ADDITION TO
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EXACERBATING FACTOR OF TRADITIONAL ZAPU/ZANU RIVALRY THEY SAID IT IS A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO ASSUME THAT A GUERILLA FIGHTER'S AFFILIATION WITH A MILITARY ORGANIZATION IS INDICATIVE OF HIS POLITICAL PREFERENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY SAID, MANY PERSONS FIGHTING ARE SUPPORTERS OF UANC, BUT BECAUSE THEY DESIRE TO FIGHT MUST TEMPORARILY AFFIRM LOYALTY TO EITHER ZAPU OR ZANU. ABOVE ALL, THEY CONTINUALLY

REITERATED, THE U.S./U.K. ROLE MUST BE ABSOLUTELY AN IMPARTIAL ONE BECAUSE THE RANK AND FILE CIVILIAN AS WELL AS GUERRILLA WOULD NOT TOLERATE A SETTLEMENT WHICH APPEARED STACKED IN FAVOR ONE OR ANOTHER PARTY.

3. FOCUSING ON THE CURRENT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS THEY EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO INTEGRATE THE PF FORCES. THIS THEY SAID WAS A TASK WHICH COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED IN TWO YEARS OF EFFORT BY THE FRONT LINE STATES. THE FORCES WERE NOT LIKELY TO UNITE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A MAN WHOM THEY WOULD SEE AS A BRITISHER AND A WHITE, LORD CARVER. THEY STRESSED THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AND THAT THEY FELT THE U.S. AND U.K. HAD ONLY TWO OR THREE MONTHS TO ARRANGE A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION THEY STRESSED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPERATIVE TO IMPOSE A 30-DAY LIMIT ON THE UPCOMING CARVER/CHAND TALKS. THE PATIENCE OF THE GENERAL POPULATION WAS NEAR AN END, AND IN ADDITION WE SHOULD NOT GIVE SMITH A CHANCE TO DRAG HIS FEET.

4. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF ZAPU IN PARTICULAR THEY EXPRESSED APPREHENSION OVER NEWS REPORTS (THEY DID NOT SPECIFY SOURCE) INTIMATING THAT TINY ROWLANDS WAS ACTING AS CONDUIT FOR AN ATTEMPT BY NKOMO AND KAUNDA TO ARRANGE A SETTLEMENT WITH THE BRITISH THAT WOULD AFFORD NKOMO A PREFERENTIAL POSITION DURING TRANSITION. THEY WERE MILDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SUSPICIOUS OF THE BRITISH, AND CONCERNING THE FRONT LINE STATES SAID THAT WHILE BOTSWANA, TANZANIA, AND MOZAMBIQUE (NO MENTION MADE OF ANGOLA) ALL SEEMED COMMITTED TO ABIDING BY THE WISHES OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE IN CHOOSING THEIR LEADERS, ZAMBIA WAS NOT. CITING KAUNDA'S LONG SUPPORT FOR NKOMO THEY EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBT ABOUT ZAMBIA'S SUPPORT FOR ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD NOT GIVE PRIMACY TO NKOMO.

5. FOR OUR PART, WE STRESSED THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO NEUTRALITY TOWARDS ALL NATIONALIST GROUPS AT ALL STAGES OF NEGOTIATION AND THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF SUPPORTING ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH FAVORED ANY PARTICULAR PARTY. UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS ON TRANSITIONAL MATTERS WE SAID WOULD NOT BE DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE ANY PARTY FROM FUTURE ROLE IN ZIMBABWE. MOREOVER, WE STRESSED THAT FREE FAIR ELECTIONS SUPERVISED BY BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER (SUPPORTED BY POLICE AND UN ZIMBABWE FORCE) WAS A KEY ELEMENT IN UK/US PROPOSALS FOR SETTLEMENT.

6. MUZOREWAS SUGGESTED WE STAY IN TOUCH THROUGH HENRY WHO IS STUDENT IN NEW YORK CITY. TENDEKAI, WHO IS RETURNING TO

RHODESIA, SAID HE MAY BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY GABORONE IF
HE WISHES TO COMMUNICATE FURTHER WITH USG. ; VANCE

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TAGS: PDEV, RH, (MUZOREWA, TENDEKAI), (MUZOREWA, HENRY)
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